

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the third paragraph under “Background of the Invention” with the following amended paragraph:

A great number of specialized methods of sequential analysis are known to date, especially in genetics. However, very few of them are universally applicable. In the simplest case, all variants of possible sequences are studied as regards their frequency. But for reasons of computer capacity that can be done only for small amounts of data. Sequential analysis algorithms based on search trees present an alternative, such as the algorithm “Capri” by Messrs. Lumio (<http://www.spss.com/PDFs/CP2SPCZ-1201.pdf>). Yet their speed, too, is insufficient for analyzing large transaction data. Methods based on the classical analysis of baskets of merchandise offer a quicker alternative and have already been used for sequential analysis of baskets of merchandise (Agrawal R., Srikant R., Mining Sequential Patterns. IBM Almaden Research Center, 650 Harry Road, San Jose).